

Appl. No. 10/511,460

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of 11 January 2006. Claims 1-12 are pending in the application, and Claims 1-12 have been rejected.

By this Response and Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended.

No new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments above and remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination.

About The Invention

The present invention relates generally to methods and apparatus for providing improvements in the electrical connections between the connection terminals, or contacts, of an integrated circuit, and the connection parts, or terminals, of a module. More particularly, various embodiments of the present invention include connection parts, or terminals, with structures formed thereon which facilitate the electrical connection of the integrated circuit to the module.

Non-narrowing Amendment to Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended in a non-narrowing manner to delete several reference numerals therefrom. This amendment is not intended to limit the scope of Claim 1 in any way.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Specification for various informalities. More particularly, the Examiner states that the section headings are missing, and raises a question about the sentence at page 6, lines 12-14.

With respect to section headings, Applicants respectfully decline to add section headings as these are not required by statute or regulation.

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With respect to the sentence at page 6, lines 12-14, the Examiner asks how contacts 5 and 6 can be connected to themselves. The sentence in question reads as follows: "The connection contacts 5 and 6 and the remnants 11 of raised portions, being electrically conductively connected to the connection contacts 5 and 6, and the connecting parts 7 and 8 are protected against environmental effects by the filler material in the form of the foil." Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to Fig. 2, and note that the sentence in question, does not say that contacts 5 and 6 are connected to themselves, but rather says that contacts 5 and 6; the connecting parts 7 and 8; and the remnants 11, which are electrically connected to the contacts and connecting parts, are protected by the filler material.

Rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 4 and 12 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation in Claims 4 and 12 of "the transitional zone".

Claim 4 has been amended to recite "a transitional zone" rather than "the transitional zone".

Applicants note that Claim 12 does not contain the recitation "the transitional zone", however Claim 10 does, and Claim 10 has been amended to recite "a transitional zone".

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, have been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-2 and 7-8 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Tan, et al., (US Patent 6,864,423).

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Independent Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to make clear that the connection contacts have a first major surface and that two or more of the remnants which project from each of the connecting parts in the direction of the connection contacts are physically in contact with the first major surface of the relevant connection contact. Support for these amendments can be generally found throughout the specification, and can more particularly be found at page 6, and in Fig. 2.

Tan, et al., as cited by the Examiner, discloses in Fig. 8, a structure that is different from those defined by Applicants' amended independent Claims 1 and 7. Elements 108, 110 of Tan, et al., do not provide the two or more remnants that physically contact the first major surface of the connection contact which projects out from the integrated circuit, as called for in Applicants' Claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that rejection of independent Claims 1 and 7 have been overcome. Applicants further submit that rejections of dependent Claims 2 and 8 have similarly been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(e)

Claims 3-4 and 9-10 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being unpatentable over Tan, et al., (US Patent 6,864,423).

Claims 5-6 and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being unpatentable over Tan, et al., in view of Taguchi (US Patent 6,465,879).

As discussed above, independent Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and now more clearly recite structural limitations that do not appear to be shown, suggested, or motivated by the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the independent Claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of dependent Claims 3-6 and 9-12 have also been overcome.

Conclusion

All of the objections and rejections in the outstanding Office Action of 11 January

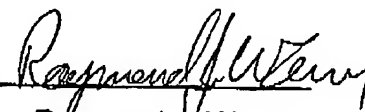
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2006 have been responded to, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending Claims 1-12 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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